



**Radio Society of Great Britain**  
**Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee**  
**Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014 Virtual Meeting**  
**Held via Skype Conference Call**

**Present**

John McCullagh	GI4BWM	ETCC Chairman
Andrew Barrett	G8DOR	Vice Chair/South West England Regional Manager
Colin Dalziel	GM8LBC	Scotland Regional Manager/Proposals Manager
Dave Dawson	G7UZN	South East England Regional Manager
Mark Lewis	GW7KDU	Wales Regional Manager/Secretary
Bob Wilkinson	G3VVT	North England Regional Manager
Steve Morton	G8SFR	Data Comms Manager
Stewart Bryant	G3YSX	RSGB Board Liaison member

**Apologies**

Jon Lee	G4TSN	Midlands Regional Manager
Noel Matthews	G8GTZ	TV Manager

**1: Chairman's opening remarks**

GI4BWM opened the meeting by welcoming G3YSX and also announcing that G7LWT has decided to leave the ETCC for personal reasons.

**2: Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013 were formally accepted subject to some minor changes and will be published on UK repeaters website.

**Action GW7KDU**

**3: Matters arising**

*Matters arising – Previous minutes*

GB7SH: Not yet brought into service, unlikely to in the future.

**Closed**

Paper detailing how bands/modes (TV, Voice, Digital, Analogue, Packet etc) are typically used in the IO83 area.

**Closed**

Report from G8SFR re work on restarting UHF clearances:

**Closed**

Preparation of a D-Star Users Guide: On-going.

**Closed**

Herne Bay repeater GB7IC site changes.

**Closed**

PU spectrum release in 2.3GHz band. It was confirmed that a significant section of the 2.3 – 2.4GHz band is to be released in 2013/2014 making it very likely that a number of ATV

repeaters would need new frequency assignments. Further information is awaited. Chair to report as necessary. Expected to be on-going until 2015

**Action GI4BWM & G8GTZ**

GB3CY: Off air for approximately three years.

**Closed**

### *Matters arising – ATV Matters*

GB3IV, GB3DK: These applications are still on hold by the primary user. G8GTZ will now be responsible for managing these. GM8LBC to ensure that Noel has access to the vetting system. On-going

**Action G8GTZ & GM8LBC**

GB3IV: The keeper has requested FM and Digital video output.

**Closed**

### *Matters arising – Outstanding vetting list*

GB3GB: Application received to change dual mode (DMR). Parameter change to go ahead on a non-interference proviso. A frequency change application is likely to follow. On-going

**Action G4TSN**

GB3NY: New UHF repeater at Bridlington.

**Closed**

GB7CF: Folkestone:

**Closed**

GB7GT: Ludlow

**Closed**

### *Matters arising – Exception reports from the regions.*

GB3WP. UHF repeater, Stalybridge.

**Closed**

## **4: RSGB/Ofcom forum meeting update**

GI4BWM reported from the recent RSGB/Ofcom Forum meeting that plans were on course for a release date of mid-2015 and that changes to the 2.3 & 3.4GHz microwave bands would be enacted via a variation to the Amateur Radio licence. There may be significant changes to repeaters in these bands especially in 2.3 GHz.

## **5: Proposed CAA meeting**

A meeting had been requested with the Primary User to progress 23 cms applications and this had been refused. It was thought there may be a misunderstanding of the purpose of this meeting in which it was proposed to brief the relevant people within the PU on the flexibility of parameters that were available to ATV repeaters in frequency, antenna patterns etc. Ofcom is to explain this proposal to the PU and ask once again for a tripartite meeting.

## **6: NoV Renewals**

The renewal procedure which is due beginning March 2014 will be devised between Ofcom and the RSGB and kept as simple as possible whilst ensuring the appropriate validation of applicants and that repeaters are actually on air. The process will be published on the Ofcom

and RSGB websites. This is to be raised again at the next RSGB/Ofcom forum in March although it is hoped the process will be in place before then.

**Action GI4BWM**

## **7: Outstanding vetting list**

The number of applications in the clearing process has recently been greatly reduced by a large number of 70cm applications being cleared. The main concern of the committee is now the number of long term 23cm applications. There are ongoing discussions with Ofcom as mentioned above.

**Action GI4BWM**

GB7YD-A & GB7HD-A are currently on hold pending discussions with the PU. It is hoped that a way round the problem can be found using alternative frequencies as per the recent 23 cms bandplan.

**Action G3VVT**

GB7LH: This is an application for a site near Heathrow Airport but the location has not been detailed sufficiently by the applicant. The information has been requested but no response has yet been received.

**Action G7UZN**

Unassigned E1 applications on the vetting website: GI4BWM reminded all committee members to regularly look for applications that have been received on the vetting website and assign themselves as necessary.

**Action All**

## **8: Policy issues & decisions required**

### ***CTCSS tones***

G8DOR raised the question of whether we should remain restricted to using only 9 of the CTCSS tones available. The consensus of the committee was that this was no longer necessary as the old regional based system was intended to make the choice of tone easier for users to remember. It is now much easier to find out which tone a repeater is using (via ukrepeater.net for example). In future a greater choice of tones will be offered but a recommendation to use only tones of 218Hz and lower was made. A full proposal will be circulated within the ETCC before a final decision is made.

**Action G8DOR**

### ***Motorola DMR Colour Codes***

The use of Motorola Colour codes on DMR repeaters was discussed. These are used in a similar way to CTCSS tones on analogue repeaters. Currently most DMR repeaters are using code 1 and there is no mechanism on the E1 for specifying which code should be used. The committee agreed that it is worth introducing this as well as differentiating between D-Star and DMR units in the vetting process. A proposal will be circulated.

**Action G8DOR**

### ***GB7AA***

An application for a 70cm DMR repeater (GB7AA) on the same site as existing 70cm D-Star (GB7AD) and analogue (GB3AZ) has been received. A concern was raised about the spectrum efficiency of the proposal and also the engineering feasibility given the current frequencies in use. It was decided that the proposal should proceed using DVU channels for both digital mode repeaters.

**Action G8DOR**

### ***Digital modes specialist***

Although G7LWT no longer wishes to be a full time member of the committee he is happy to help out with questions as they arise on an ad-hoc basis. Regional members will be the initial point of contact for repeater keepers/users and they will contact G7LWT for assistance when required.

**Action All**

### ***Bulletin board***

A suggestion has been made by G8GTZ that a bulletin board specifically for UK based repeater be established. G3YSX stated that the RSGB board supported these and it was also known via G8GTZ that the BATC runs a very successful one. GM8LBC has already set up an example of what it might look like and gave a URL for committee members to view it. The committee were agreed in principle that it was a good idea but concerns were raised about the amount of effort that would be needed to moderate the forum. An advertisement will be placed on the ukrepeaters website asking for volunteers. Committee members will also oversee the bulletin board.

**Action GM8LBC**

## **9: Regional and Special interest reports**

### ***Scotland***

No outstanding issues

### ***North of England***

GB7TV-B: D-Star repeater for New Marske has yet to be brought into operation.

GB3HJ has problems with noise from the original TX causing desensing. Currently awaiting crystals for an alternative repeater radio which are due in February.

GB3HF is not operational due to problems with the receiver which is currently under repair.

GB3HA is not operational after the antenna and mast blew down in recent gales.

GB3GD and GB3IM-S are currently not operational due to hurricane force winds breaking the antenna mountings. Awaiting a window in the current poor weather to re-install the antenna.

GB3US out of service due to equipment building being rebuilt after asbestos contamination was found. No date yet given for completion.

GB3CY, GB3MC, GB3MY have not been operational for years. The keepers are being elusive about when if ever they will return or not.

### ***Northern Ireland***

No outstanding issues

### ***East Midlands***

No report

### ***Wales and the Marches***

GB3SP: Interference reported by a user. The source is suspected originating from SRD/LPD and is on the output frequency of the repeater.

**Action GW7KDU**

### ***SE England***

G7UZN wished it to be noted that he was pleased with the recent clearances on 70cm.

GB3ES & GB3HE: The status of these repeaters is currently unknown.

### ***South & SW England***

No outstanding issues.

### ***Data modes***

Old packet NoVs: These need to be rescinded and re-issued where appropriate. This is an on-going action at the RSGB/Ofcom forum meetings.

**Action G14BWM**

### ***TV Repeaters***

No report

## **10: AOB**

### ***Code of Conduct and Ethics***

G14BWM stated that the RSGB requires all members of its committees to agree to a code of conduct and ethics. This will be circulated to all members of the ETCC shortly. It is a requirement that all volunteers comply with this, not just the ETCC.

**Action All**

### ***Long-term closed down repeaters***

GM8LBC asked about how the ETCC should deal with 20+ repeaters that are long-term closed down but have not been seconded NoV. It is hoped that the impending NoV renew process will resolve this and free up much needed spectrum.

### ***G0OLX/GB7NS***

G7UZN reported that the keeper of GB7NS has offered to demonstrate DMR repeaters to the ETCC. He will be invited to the next physical meeting that is held. GM8LBC suggested that G0OLX could provide some user documentation for the ukrepeaters website.

**Action G7UZN**

## **11: Date of next meeting**

The next virtual meeting will be in March 2014 with a physical meeting planned around mid-May 2014 to be held at the Hilton Metropole, Birmingham.